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Jalil Abbas Jilani, Shamsad Akhtar, Lt Gen (retired) Anwar Ali Haider



SEPARATIST LEADER YASIN MALIK'S WIFE IS RIGHTS ADVISOR TO PAK PM
Mushaah Hussain Mullick appointed as special advisor on human rights to interim PM Anwar-ul-Haq Kakar, Pakistan media reported

JALIL ABBAS JILANI APPOINTED FOREIGN MIN
President Arif Alvi on Thursday administered the oath to the caretaker Cabinet which has 16 ministers. Veteran diplomat and former foreign secretary Jalil Abbas Jilani has been appointed as foreign minister, former Balochistan home minister Sarfaraz Bugti as interior minister, development economist Shamsad Akhtar as finance minister and Lt Gen (retired) Anwar Ali Haider as defence minister

POLL PANEL TO CONDUCT FRESH DELIMITATION
■ Meanwhile, the Election Commission of Pakistan on Thursday decided to conduct fresh delimitation of constituencies on the basis of the new census. So, general elections may not be held before this year-end
■ Pakistan National Assembly was dissolved on August 9, just three days before the tenure of the government led by Shehbaz Sharif was to end

ADVISORS IN THE NEW CABINET OF INTERIM PM ANWAR-UL-HAQ KAKAR

Guj on thin ice on remission: SC

Calls out selective application of policy to prematurely release 11 lifers in Bilkis rape case

SHRUTI KANKAR @ New Delhi

WARNING that the Gujarat government was on thin ice regarding the premature release of 11 convicts who gang-raped Bilkis Bano during 2002 Godhra riots, the Supreme Court on Thursday sought to call out the state's selective application of its remission policy.



While Gujarat submitted that the convicts were released after complying with the requirements of state's Premature Release Policy of 1992, a bench of justices B V Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan asked why the

government sought the Godhra district judge's opinion instead of that of the Maharashtra sessions judge, who had sentenced them to rigorous life imprisonment in 2008.

The 1992 policy was applicable to prisoners who had completed 14 years of imprisonment. It also mandated the Inspector General of Jail to obtain the opinion of the District Police Officer, District Magistrate, Jail Superintendent and Advisory Board Committee for the early release.

The court also sought answers regarding the provision under which the Advisory

Heinous, but deserve chance to reform: Guj

Additional Solicitor General S V Raju, appearing for the Gujarat government, said the crime committed by the 11 convicts was heinous but they deserve the chance of reformation

Board Committee was formed and the date it was constituted.

Terming the crime heinous, the bench questioned state's selective approach on the remission policy. "Why the policy of remission is applied selectively? Opportunity to reform and

reintegrate must be given to every prisoner and not only a few prisoners. How far is remission policy being implemented in all cases where prisoners have completed 14 years in jail?" Justice Nagarathna asked.

"In this case, you are saying that there's a specific mandamus. If none would have applied, what would've been the case? CBI will not straightaway step in. They will have to be referred...either by court or by government. So it's a negative opinion in all cases. All said and done, it was investigated by CBI... You are on thin ice," Justice Nagarathna added.

ROW SNOWBALLS

Half of Ashoka faculty demands reinstatement of asst prof Das

KAVITA BAJALI-DATT @ New Delhi

MORE faculty voices have come out in support of Ashoka University assistant professor Sabiyasachi Das, who resigned after his paper highlighting possible manipulation in the 2019 general elections faced backlash.

Many present and past faculty members and students have demanded the unconditional reinstatement of Das, who taught economics and sought to set up a panel on academic freedom. The protests picked up pace after another economics professor Pulapre Balakrishnan resigned, protesting against Das' ouster. Political science, sociology and anthropology departments also showed solidarity with Das after the departments of economics, English and Creative Writing sought his reinstatement.

As many as 87 faculty members, including from history, maths, and physics departments, have written to Vice Chancellor Somak Raychaudhury stating that free thought within universities in India is in crisis. They demanded that all decisions on matters related to academic freedom should be put on hold till the promised Committee for Academic Freedom is in place. The letter signed by 87 faculty members was on Thursday reposted on X by Amit Chaudhuri, author and prof of creative writing.

The Ashoka University Student Government posted on X, "The student body must be informed of the creation and functioning of the Academic Freedom Committee. There must be NO role of governing body in evaluating faculty research. We expect the student body to be kept up-to-date with details of the Faculty meeting." Ashoka's Sonapat campus has over 160 faculty members, 19 departments and over 2,800 students.



Submerged houses at Bhanam village in Rupnagar following release of excess water from Pong and Bhakra dams on Thursday | ANI

150 Punjab villages marooned

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

THE flood situation in Punjab worsened on Thursday following release of excess water from Bhakra-Nangal and Pong dams into the swollen Beas and Sutlej rivers. The flood waters have inundated at least 150 villages in six districts of Punjab, disrupting normal life. The authorities had issued fair warning and nearly 9,700 people were rescued, officials said.

Meanwhile, two teenage boys accidentally fell into a swollen rivulet in Gurdaspur district, where they had gone to watch the rising water level. Their bodies were recovered later. Another person went missing in Kapurthala district.

According to official sources,

70 villages in Gurdaspur are affected and around 5,000 people have been evacuated from the district.

In neighbouring Hoshiarpur district, 18 villages are under water, officials said. The number of affected villages in Tarn Taran district is estimated at 39. In Ropar district, some

FLOODING MAY HAVE DAMAGED 90% OF PADDY CROP

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Thursday visited Hoshiarpur district to take stock of the situation. He said the state government has ordered a survey to ascertain the loss incurred to people due to floods. According to preliminary estimates, 90% of the paddy crop has been adversely affected

15 villages are affected while in Amritsar district, one village is hit.

Himanshu Agarwal, deputy commissioner of Gurdaspur, said that multiple teams of the National Disaster Response Force, Army and Border Security Force have been pressed into service to rescue marooned villagers.

Officials fear the flood situation may escalate further as heavy rain is expected in upstream Himachal Pradesh, where the catchment areas of Pong and Bhakra dams lie.

The Punjab government has already sounded a red alert for the downstream districts of Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Hoshiarpur, Kapurthala and Tarn Taran.



PRAGG-RAJ BEATS ERIGAISI, BOOKS SEMIFINAL SLOT

Indian Grand Master R Praggnanandhaa defeated compatriot Arjun Erigaisi 5-4 in sudden death tie-break to enter the semis of World Cup chess event. This may give him a chance to play in the Candidates | P17

Pilot collapses in security hold before takeoff, dies

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mumbai

AN IndiGo pilot on the Nagpur-Pune sector suffered a sudden cardiac arrest and collapsed minutes before he was to enter the cockpit on Thursday.

Captain Manoj Subramanyam was waiting in the security hold area of the Nagpur airport when he collapsed around 12 pm.

The 40-year-old was rushed to KIMS-Kingsway Hospital. He died of "cardiac arrest following the sudden unexpected loss

of heart function," a statement from the hospital said.

According to the Directorate General of Civil Aviation, he had flown on the Trivandrum-Pune-Nagpur route between 3 am and 7 am on the preceding day and had more than 24 hours of rest before reporting for duty again.

Subramanyam's death comes just a day after a Qatar Airways pilot, who had previously worked with SpiceJet, died of cardiac arrest while serving as an additional crew member in the airline's Delhi-Doha flight.

Will ask Cauvery authority to reconsider decision: DKS

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Bengaluru

DEPUTY Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Thursday said the state government will appeal to the Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) to reconsider its decision directing Karnataka to release 10,000 cusecs water to Tamil Nadu daily for 15 days.

The government is also considering convening an all-party meeting to discuss the issue, he said. Shivakumar's statement comes after Opposition BJP and JDS as well as farmers' organisations slammed the gov-

ernment for releasing Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu and not protecting the interests of farmers in the state.

Shivakumar, who is also the Minister for Water Resources, said there is scarcity of water due to rain deficit. "Still, we released water to Tamil Nadu. But they (Tamil Nadu) are not satisfied. The inflow into our reservoirs is poor in view of the weak monsoon. The situation is such that we have to save water even for drinking purposes. Hence, we will request the CWMA to reconsider its decision," Shivakumar said. P4



Over 12,718 cusecs of water being released to Tamil Nadu from KRS reservoir in Mandya district on Thursday | UDAYASHANKAR S

DK man falls prey to cyber fraud, held in Saudi jail

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Mangaluru

CHANDRASHEKHARA MK, 33, from Mijoor village in Kadaba taluk of Dakshina Kannada has been languishing in a jail in Saudi Arabia for the past eight months after hackers allegedly opened a bank account in his name and made a fund transaction.

Revealing this to reporters here on Thursday, social activist Shridhar Gowda said Chandrashekhara, who was working for Al Fanar Co in Riyadh, visited a shop in that city a year ago to buy a mobile phone and a SIM card. The shopkeeper had taken his thumb impression twice during the purchase after which Chandrashekhara received a message in Arabic on his mobile phone.

Subsequently, he also received a call asking him to share the OTP sent on his mobile phone. An unsuspecting Chandrashekhara simply did as he was told.

CONTINUED ON: P7

Teesta not allowed to enter IISc campus

DONNA EVA @ Bengaluru

IN another case of blocking activists entering its campus, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has been accused of preventing activist and Citizens for Justice and Peace (CJP) secretary Teesta Setalvad from entering.

Setalvad was to deliver a talk on "Communal Harmony and Justice" on the IISc campus on Wednesday around 5pm, organised by Break The Silence. A few hours before the talk was to start, students alleged that permission was not given for the talk.

"We had asked for permission a week in advance and had continuously asked for updates from the IISc authorities. However, they said they would update us, but never did. A few hours before, we were called to the registrar's office and informed that the director was not in office and it was not possible to give permission for the talk at the hall we had booked. However, we were told the talk could still take place on the campus," Shairik Sengupta, a student who had helped organ-

ise the talk, told *TNIE*. Despite being accompanied by a student, Setalvad was prevented from entering the campus by security guards. "Usually, visitors are asked to log their details before entering. The guards can prevent entry if they are not informed about the visit. However, this was not the case as it had been informed," said Surjadipta De Sarkar, another student.

The issue was resolved only after some faculty members approached the guards and demanded to speak to whoever had asked to prevent Setalvad's entry, Shairik said.

The talk was held on the campus at a cafeteria. However, students from other colleges were prevented from entering the campus.

This is the second such incident at the institute. "When we invited activists Natasha Narwal and Devangana Kalita, they had cancelled the event as the authorities were not aware, despite seeking prior permission. But this time around no communication was given at all until just before the talk," Shairik said.

PURAN CHOUDHARY @ Bengaluru

CHANDRAYAAN 3's Vikram lander on Thursday successfully separated from the propulsion module in a crucial step that allows it to make a solo journey to achieve a soft-landing near the lunar south pole on August 23.

The landing spot is between Manzinus C and Simpelius N craters near the lunar south pole, and will be named after a successful landing.

India awaits with bated breath for this historic mo-

ment, which it missed when the lander crashed while attempting to soft-land on September 7, 2019.

ISRO on Thursday confirmed that lander Vikram had successfully separated from the propulsion module and is now expected to land near the lunar south pole.

ISRO on X platform (formerly Twitter) quoted Chandrayaan 3's message relayed after its separation from the propulsion module: "Thanks for the ride mate. LM (Lander Module) is successfully sepa-



Vikram lander separated on Thursday | ANI

All set for Moon landing

The separation means the lander will no longer be dependent on the propulsion module. From now on, the lander, carrying the Pragyan rover inside, will complete the manoeuvres and soft-land at the site. The lander will find a flat surface to make soft-landing to ensure smooth touchdown

tomorrow."

After the separation, the lander is expected to undergo a "deboost" to place it in an orbit

of 30km X 100km, from where soft landing on the south polar region of the Moon will be attempted. The next deorbiting manoeuvre is scheduled for Friday at 4 pm, ISRO said. The process of deboosting will reduce the speed of the lander module to achieve a soft landing.

ISRO Chairman S Somanath had explained, "The velocity at the starting of the landing process is almost 1.68 km per second. But this speed is horizontal to the surface of the Moon." P7

Vikram starts solo journey towards lunar south pole

